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Patent claims

1. A motor vehicle body, the support structure (10) of which is composed of large-size partial modules (12, 34, 50, 66), a basic module (12) comprising  
10 lateral longitudinal members (15) and a body floor (14) and reaching laterally as far as front wall columns (20), and, when the support structure (10) is assembled, the basic module (12) being connected to a front end module (34) which belongs to the front  
15 crumple zone of the motor vehicle and is supported in a crash stable manner on the basic module (12), characterized in that a front end region (36) of the body floor (14) belongs to the front end module (34) and extends rearward over a considerable length region  
20 of the basic module (12) between lateral longitudinal member sections (16).

2. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the front end module (34) comprises longitudinal  
25 member sections (38) which laterally bound the front end region (36) of the body floor (14) and can be connected to the lateral longitudinal member sections (16) of the basic module (12).

30 3. The body as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the mutually assigned, lateral longitudinal member sections (16, 38) of the front end module (34) and of the basic module (12) have joining surfaces (83a, b) which are matched to each other and extend over the at  
35 least approximately entire overlapping length of the mutually assigned longitudinal member sections (16, 38).

4. The body as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the length of the joining surfaces (83a, b) corresponds approximately to the length of the adjacent, front end region (36) of the body floor (14).

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5. The body according to claim 2, characterized in that the lateral longitudinal member sections (38) of the front end module (34) and the front end region (36) of the body floor (14) extend rearward to approximately the same distance.

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6. The body as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the lateral longitudinal member sections (16, 38) of the front end module (34) and of the basic module (12) each have a box profile which is closed in cross section.

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7. The body as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the box profile of the lateral longitudinal member sections (16, 38) of the front end module (34) and of the basic module (12) in each case has a cross section which can be varied over its length.

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8. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that upwardly protruding column sections (18) which can be connected to the front end module (34) are arranged at the front ends of the lateral longitudinal member sections (16) of the basic module (12).

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9. The body as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that upwardly protruding column sections (42) between which a front end wall (40) is fastened are arranged on the lateral longitudinal member sections (38) of the front end module (34).

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10. The body as claimed in claim 8 and 9, characterized in that the upwardly protruding column sections (18, 42) of the front end module (34) and of

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the basic module (12) can be connected to each other via joining surfaces (81a, b), which are matched in each case to each other, to form the front wall columns (20).

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11. The body as claimed in claim 8 and 9, characterized in that the upwardly protruding column sections (18, 42) of the front end module (34) and of the basic module (12) each have a box profile which is closed in cross section, and extend to approximately level with the side wall edge of the support structure (10).

12. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the front end region (36) of the vehicle body (14), which region belongs to the front end module (34), is connected in an overlapping manner to that region of the body floor (14) which belongs to the basic module (12).

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13. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the basic module (12) ends behind rear wheel houses (26) and can be connected to a rear module (66) which, when the support structure (10) is assembled together with the rear end region of the basic module (12), belongs to the rear crumple zone of the motor vehicle.

14. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a roof module (50) can be placed onto the basic module (12) and the front end module (34), the front roof columns (54) of which roof module are supported both on the basic module (12) and on the front end module (34).

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15. The body as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the roof module (50) comprises a crossmember (60) which runs below the windshield and via which the front

wall columns (20) are connected to each other.

16. The body as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that a B-column (78) can be fastened between the roof  
5 module (50) and the basic module (12).

17. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a side wall module (100) can be fastened in each case to the basic module (12) above the longitudinal  
10 member (15) and extends from behind the front side doors as far as rear door columns (58).

18. The body as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the support structure (10) is to be lined with  
15 outer panel parts (80, 82, 84), the joining points (62, 64, 81, 83) of the partial modules (12, 34, 50, 66) being covered by the outer panel parts (80, 82, 84).